



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Candidate for Governor Forges Nomination Papers - Sentenced to Jail

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that David Charles Scully of Davis, California will spend 90 days in jail, pay a fine of \$250 and be placed on three years probation for falsifying signatures on nomination petitions, following his guilty plea in Sacramento County Superior Court.

"My policy is zero tolerance for election fraud - period," said Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. "Any person who thinks they can defraud the system, even a candidate for Governor, faces the prospect of jail."

The Secretary of State's office received reports from the Solano, Yolo, and Sacramento County Registrars of Voters offices that they received several petitions from Scully that contained invalid signatures. In one case, Scully forged the signature of a deceased person on the petition. Scully submitted the questionable "Nomination Paper Write-In Candidate" petitions related to his unsuccessful attempt to become a write-in candidate for Governor in the October 7, 2003 Special Statewide Election. The petitions were submitted to the various county offices for signature verification and while verifying the signatures on the petitions; the County Registrars' staff noticed many irregularities in the signatures.

Upon noticing the suspicious signatures, the County Registrars' staff forwarded the questionable petitions to the Secretary of State for investigation. The Secretary of State's Election Fraud Investigation Unit gathered evidence against Scully and referred the matter to the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office on December 27, 2005. Scully pled guilty to one count and was sentenced on July 19, 2006.

Of all the petition pages submitted by Scully, the Sacramento County Registrar's office had the most, 27 pages with a total of 247 signatures and only 19 of those were valid. Scully submitted a total of 188 signatures in Yolo and Solano Counties with only 17 valid signatures.

"The close cooperation of my Election Fraud Investigation Unit with the Sacramento District Attorney's Office is critical to eliminating election fraud in Sacramento County and across the state. The continued prosecution of any case involving election fraud will help ensure and protect the integrity of the voting process," concluded Secretary McPherson.